

L O D D O N   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

1948

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Doctor W.W.Sinclair

M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

K.S.STARLING

C.R.S.I., M.I.H., M.S.I.A.

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Council Offices,  
Loddon,  
Norwich.



The Annual Report for the Year 1948 of the  
Medical Officer of Health to the Loddon  
Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Loddon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual report for the year 1948. The report is made in accordance with the instruction of the Ministry of Health. The vital statistics of the District are given below together with appropriate observations.

The Registrar General estimates the population of your District at the 31st December 1948, to be 12,400, this shows an increase of population of 400 persons during the year 1948. During the year the natural increase by births over deaths was 59 in the district so that we must note that 341 persons have moved into your District from outside in the year under review.

The live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population in 1948 was 15.08, which is 3.17 less than the figure for 1947 and 2.82 less than the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Thus although there is a decline in the National Post-War birth rate, the decline is even more marked in your area. This is probably a reflection of the Housing problem and the difficulty of setting up homes by young married people at the present time.

The Still Birth rate was 45.8 per 1000 total births which is not unduly high.

The Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population was 10.32 which is slightly less than that of 1947 and is almost the same as the national average. The total number of deaths was 128 and of these approximately 75% were due to diseases specifically associated with old age.

The Mortality rate in infants under one year was 10.6 per 1000 live births. This is highly satisfactory. There were no still births or deaths of infants under one year among the illegitimate births which is also very good. Out of 2 premature births one baby died.

Two persons died as a result of Tuberculosis in your District during 1948, this is one less than for the previous year. The Tuberculosis Register for the district at the end of the year showed a total of 62 known cases of Tuberculosis in the district, an increase of 2 over the previous year. Forty of the cases are of the respiratory type and the remaining 22 are cases of tuberculosis affecting parts of the body other than the lungs. There is no significant increase in your tuberculosis rate.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year. Measels occurred to the number of 46 cases during the first quarter of the year and then subsided. Whooping Cough was troublesome but the number of cases was not unduly high - a total of 41 cases almost evenly divided over the first nine months of the year and none in the last quarter. There were only 10 cases of Scarlet fever in 1948, and there was one case of Infantile paralysis. The only case of infectious disease notified in the last quarter of the year was one of puerperal pyrexia. It is surprising that no case of intestinal infection attributable to waterbourne infection should have been notified during the year when one considers the large number of shallow wells in use in the District. This can only be

explained on the basis of a largely static community with a low carrier rate and probably granted some immunity to its own germs. It is to be hoped that the introduction of piped water to certain areas will not be long delayed so as to remove the ever present threat of an outbreak of waterbourne disease.

### Details of Vital Statistics.

#### Births and Deaths.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	88	89	177
Illegitimate	6	4	10
	<u>94</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>187</u>

Birth rate per 1000 estimated population - 15.08.

#### Still Births.

Legitimate	7	2	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			<u>9</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Total Births - 45.8

#### Deaths.

Number - 128 (Males 73 Females 55)

Death rate

Death Rate per 1000 estimated population - 10.32

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. )- Nil.

#### Deaths of Infants under one year.

Legitimate	- 2
Illegitimate	- 0

Deaths of Infants under one year per 1000 live births - 10.6

#### Causes of Death: (Analysis)

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .....	1
Syphilitic Diseases .....	1
Cancer .....	19
Diabetes .....	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	15
Heart Diseases .....	53
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	4
Bronchitis .....	6
Pneumonia .....	3
Other respiratory diseases .....	1
Ulcer of Duodenum .....	1
Diseases of Digestive System .....	2
Nephritis .....	1
Premature Birth .....	1
Suicide .....	2
Road Traffic Accidents .....	2
Other Violent Causes .....	3
All Other Causes .....	9

128



Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Jan.-March</u>	<u>April-June</u>	<u>July-Sept.</u>	<u>Oct- Dec.</u>
Whooping Cough	11	17	13	nil
Measels	46	0	3	"
Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	"
Scarlet Fever	0	3	7	"
Pneumonia	3	1	1	"
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	1

Water Supplies.

Satisfactory progress has been made during the year in the laying of water mains in the District. The water is all chlorinated before going into supply. In the areas where a piped supply has been introduced this new amenity has been welcomed by the vast majority of the communities so far served. Further large scale plans are afoot to extend water mains to other parts of the District. Details of the existing mains are to be found in the Sanitary Inspectors Report.

Housing.

The Housing Survey in the District was discontinued at the end of September 1948. A total of 2179 houses had been surveyed since its inception and of these approximately 7% were found unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense. A further 33% were found to be unfit but capable of being made fit with major repairs.

The Council has made a creditable effort to overcome its housing problem by building as many houses as it was possible to do. Nevertheless, along with the provision of a plentiful clean piped water supply in the district, housing is the major problem facing the Council at the present time as it has the greatest possible bearing on the health of the people. It would appear that new building alone will not solve the housing problem and it is to be hoped that the Council will make full use of the provisions under the new Housing Act to render unfit property in the District fit for human habitation.

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In conclusion, I beg to thank the Loddon Rural District Council for support and encouragement throughout the year and I should also like to thank your Sanitary Inspector for his work during 1948.

Yours faithfully,

William W. Sinclair

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
M.O.H. Loddon Rural District.



# Sanitary Inspectors Report for the

Year - 1948

To the Chairman and Members of  
The Loddon Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit, as your Sanitary Inspector, the  
Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1949.

## Bakchouses.

There are three in the district, and these are kept in a  
satisfactory condition.

## Slaughter-houses etc.

No killing has taken place in slaughter-houses since the  
Gov rnment established central killing, other than the killing  
of pigs for owners own consumption, under licence from the  
Food Office. 4 Slaughter-houses are licensed to kill pigs  
under licence.

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Licensed slaughtermen number 18.

## Disinfection.

Fumigation was carried out in 10 houses - four in respect  
of verminous premises.

## Water Supply.

Further extensions have been made to the main at Loddon, to  
Chedgrave and remainder of Loddon. A main has been laid along the  
Norwich - Bungay Road where it turns off at Harvey Lane, Kirstead  
to the Seething Airfield to serve the parish of Woodton, and extension  
of this main is in progress through Bedingham which will go to  
Denton Corner Bedingham, and supply water to a badly affected  
area.

The main along Ditchingham Dam has been extended to the Council's  
Housing site on Thwaite Road, Ditchingham. The Water is from  
Bungay U.D.C. and is chlorinated.

Approx. 5¼ miles of main have been laid during the year.

Connections made to the mains during the year were as follows:

Parish	Council Houses		Private		Total for	Total to
	House	Stdps	House	Stdps	Year	Date.
Brooke	8	-	19	2	29	73
Loddon	20	3				
	(Supplying 22 hsa)		39	1	63	87
Chedgrave	-	1				
	( "	12 "	2	-	3	3
Woodton	-	1				
	( "	8 "	-	-	1	1
Seething	8	-	16	-	24	24
Mundham	-	-	3	-	3	3
			Totals		122	191

Water Supply (Cont.)

A Plumbing Dept. has been introduced and a staff of three employed in maintenance and laying on house supplies.

Sewerage.

The sewerage schemes for Brooke, Loddon and Chedgrave have been completed and are working satisfactorily.

One attendant is employed full time.

Scavenging.

As in previous years, scavenging has been carried out by contract in Loddon, Chedgrave and part of Ditchingham.

Application for Scavenging was made by Brooke Parish Council but no tenders were received in response to advertisement.

The Council propose to introduce a direct labour scheme in the near future

Condemnation of Food.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:

	<u>Tins</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Luncheon meat	1	12 ozs.
Veal Loaf	1	12 ozs.
Corned Beef	-	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stewed Steak	-	3
Bacon	-	28
Butter	-	12
Peas	2	-
Beans	5	-
Milk	36	-
Cheese	-	16. 3ozs.
Orange Juice	1	-
Marmalade	2	-
Tomatoes	1	-
Liver	-	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon	1	-
Salmon	2	-
Fruit Cocktail	1	-
Macedone Veg.	1	-
Tomato Soup	1	-
Silver Hake	1	-
Apple	1	-
Marrow Jam	1	-
Grapefruit Jam	1	-
1 - Pigs Mesentric Fat		
1 - Pigs Kidney		
1 pr Pigs Lungs		
1 - Pigs Liver		

Summary of Work done and Registrations.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

Cowkeepers - Producers and Retailers	173
Butter makers	5
Milkshops	1
Accredited producers	60
T.T.Producers	30



Housing Inspections - Rural Housing Survey Etc.

Houses inspected	232
Houses found overcrowded	9
Nuisances detected	144
Nuisances abated	28
Letters sent to owners to abate nuisances	12
Total number of houses up to 31.12.48	
Provisionally classified	2179
in Categories 3 and 4	831
in Category 5	149
Visits for infectious disease	7
Houses fumigated	10

Inspections

Cowsheds	30	
Dairies	23	
Bakehouses	6	
Knackers	8	
Small Dwelling Acquisition Act	5	
Visits re sewerage	108	
Special Visits with M.O.H.	7	
Special Visits	93	
Special Complaints	10	
Special Visits re water supply	146	
Meetings with Builders and owners	61	
Special Visits re Scavenging	12	
Visits re Civil Building Licensing	51	
Meat Inspection	27	Carcases of Pork
Milk Sample	1	
Petroleum Acts	3	
Factory & Workshops Acts	4	
Inspections re Building Byelaws	48	
Visits re Salvage	14	
Visits re A.R.P. Shelters	20	
Visits re Moveable Dwellings	4	

Building Byelaws

Plans Submitted	96
Plans Approved	96
Dwellings in course of erection at 31.12.48	
(Private Enterprise)	3
New Drains tested	162

Housing & Town Planning.

Plans Submitted	83
" approved	76
" refused	2
" withdrawn by applicant	4
2 which were permitted development	1

Slaughter Houses

Licensed	4
Inspections	24

Cowsheds and Dairies

Cowsheds built or re-constructed	10
Dairies reconstructed	4

Control of Civil Building.

Applications for building licences were received in connection with:-

New premises	4
Conversions	4
Repairs, Housing	192
Repairs, non housing	109
Total	<u>309</u>
Number of licences issued	- 309

Rats and Mice infestation Order, 1943.

During the year, house to house inspections were carried out in the larger parishes, and treatment given where necessary. The work is carried out by the Pests Dept. of the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee.

Ice Cream Registrations - 2

Inspections of Premises 8

Water Samples.

80 water samples were taken for Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis, 13 were found unsatisfactory.

Dwelling Houses etc.

	Defects	Abated.
Water Supply	18	-
Foul privy bins	4	4
Drains defective	63	13
Drains choked	3	3
Absence of sinks	104	4
Walls, Plaster, brickwork defective	109	6
Walls damp	103	4
Windows Defective, insufficient area and/or Opening spaces	91	12
Coppers defective	9	1
Stairs defective	96	20
Ceilings Defective	189	103
Ovens defective	6	4
Food stores unventilated	4	1
Roofs defective	92	3
Closets Defective	51	22
Chimney Defective	28	4
Eaves, Gutters, Rainwater pipes defective	86	22
Floors defective and/or damp	106	20
Choked water courses	2	2
Choked Sewer	1	1

Mr. Penny who has been employed for the survey of houses under the Hobhouse report left the Council on Oct. 1st, I should like to express my appreciation of his help in other aspects of public health work.

My thanks are again due to the Council and Committee for such interest and support as they have given during the year to further the cause of Public Health, and to the Medical Officer of Health Dr. W. W. Sinclair.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

K. S. STARLING,

C.R.S.I., M.I.H., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector  
Building Surveyor.